Modern Standard Arabic

`https://pwsmith.github.io/multivaluation/dbcoord/`

September 28, 2020

Cite as

Contents

1 Overview

Language family:	Afro-Asiatic (Semitic)
Countries:	Primarily in the Arab League, in the Middle East and North Africa; and in the Hor
Number of speakers:	313 million
Agreement features:	gender, number, person
Attested word orders:	SV, VS
Coordination types:	and, or

2 Patterns for gender

2.1 Coordination with "and"

2.1.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

2nd conjunct / 1st conjunct	**fem**	**masc**
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

(1)   a.   (huwa) jarkud$^\Omega$u.
           (He)   run.3SG.masc
           'He runs.'
      b.   (hija) tarkud$^\Omega$u.
           (She) run.3SG.fem
           'She runs.'

(2)   almarʔatu w-arridga:lu jarkud$^\Omega$a:ni
      woman.SG and-man.SG run.3PL
      'The woman and the man run.'

2.1.2 VS order

Pattern: The gender of the first conjunct matches the gender of the verb sentence-initally. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

2nd conjunct / 1st conjunct	**fem**	**masc**
fem	fem	fem
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

(3)   a.   tarkud$^\Omega$u   almarʔatu w-arradgulu
           run.3SG.fem woman.SG and-man.SG
           'The woman and the man run.'
      b.   jarkud$^\Omega$u arradgulu w-almarʔatu.
           run.3SG man.SG   and-woman.SG

'The man and the woman run.'

2.2 Coordination with "or"

2.2.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

2nd conjunct / 1st conjunct	**fem**	**masc**
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

(4) a. almarʔatu ʔaw arradgulu jarkudˤaːni.
         woman.SG or   man.SG   run.3PL
         'The woman or the man run.'
     b. arradgulu ʔaw almarʔatu jarkudˤaːni.
         man.SG   or   woman.SG run.3PL
         'The man or the woman run.'

2.2.2 VS order

Pattern: Mismatches are resolved to masculine. (Note: Gender is not marked in 3rd person plural.)

2nd conjunct / 1st conjunct	**fem**	**masc**
fem	fem	masc
masc	masc	masc

Examples:

(5) a. tarkudˤu   almarʔatu ʔaw arradgulu.
         run.3SG.fem woman.SG or   man.SG
         'The woman or the man run.'
     b. jarkuˤu arradgulu ʔaw almarʔatu.
         run.3SG man.SG   or   woman.SG
         'The man or the woman run.'

3 Patterns for number

3.1 Coordination with "and"

3.1.1 SV order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking on the verb is fine, while singular marking is highly marked. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

2nd conjunct / 1st conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/??sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

(6)   alwaladu w-arradgulu jarkudˤa:ni
      boy.SG   and-man.SG run.3PL
      'The boy and the man run.'

(7)   a.   alwaladu w-arridga:lu jarkudˤu:na.
           boy.SG   and-man.PL run.3PL
           'The boy and the men run.'
      b.   alʔawla:du w-arradgulu jarkudˤu:na.
           boy.PL   and-man.SG run.3PL
           'The boys and the man run.'

(8)   alʔawla:du w-arridga:lu jarkudˤu:na.
      boy.PL   and-man.PL run.3PL
      'The boys and the men run.'

3.1.2 VS order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking or singular marking on the verb is fine. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

2nd conjunct / 1st conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

(9)   jarkudˤu alwaladu w-arradgulu.
      run.3SG boy.SG   and-man.SG
      'The boy and the man run.'

(10) a.   jarkudˤu alʔawla:du w-arradgulu.
           run.3SG boy.PL   and-man.SG
           'The boys and the man run.'
      b.   jarkudˤu alwaladu w-arridga:lu.
           run.3SG boy.SG   and-man.PL
           'The boy and the men run.'

(11) jarkudˤu alʔawla:du w-arridga:lu.
      run.3SG boy.PL   and-man.PL
      'The boys and the men run.'

3.2 Coordination with "or"

3.2.1 SV order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking on the verb is fine, while singular marking is highly marked. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \\ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/??sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

(12) alwaladu ʔaw arradgulu jarkudˤaːni.
      boy.SG   or   man.SG   run.3PL
      'The boy or the man run.'

(13) a. alʔwlaːdu ʔaw arradgulu jarkudˤuːna.
          boy.PL   or   man.SG   run.3PL
          'The boys or the man run.'
      b. alwaladu ʔaw arridgaːlu jarkudˤuːna.
          boy.SG   or   man.PL   run.3PL
          'The boy or the men run.'

(14) alʔwlaːdu ʔaw arridgaːlu jarkudˤuːna.
      boy.PL   or   man.PL   run.3PL
      'The boys or the men run.'

3.2.2 VS order

Pattern: With two singular conjuncts, plural marking or singular marking on the verb is fine. If the two conjuncts mismatch in number, number is resolved to plural.

1st conjunct \\ 2nd conjunct	sg	pl
sg	pl/sg	pl
pl	pl	pl

Examples:

(15) jarkudˤu alwaladu ʔaw arradgulu.
      run.3SG boy.SG   or   man.SG
      'The boy or the man run.'

(16) jarkudˤu alʔwlaːdu ʔaw arradgulu.
      run.3SG boy.PL   or   man.SG
      'The boys or the man run.'

(17) jarkudˤu alwladu ʔaw arridgaːlu.
      run.3SG boy.SG or   man.PL
      'The boy or the men run.'

(18) jarkudˤu alʔwlaːdu ʔaw arridgaːlu.
      run.3SG boy.PL   or   man.PL
      'The boys or the men run.'

4 Patterns for person

4.1 Coordination with "and"

4.1.1 SV order

Pattern: The verb marks the person of the closest conjunct. (Number is resolved to plural.)

2nd conjunct / 1st conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	
2	1pl		
3			

Examples:

(19) ʔanta   wa-ʔana: narkudˤu.
      You.2SG and-I.1SG run.1PL
      'You and I run.'

(20) ʔana: wa-ʔanta   narkudˤu.
      I.1SG and-you.2SG run.1PL
      'I and you run.'

4.1.2 VS order

Pattern: Both closest conjunct agreement and resolved agreement (following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3) are possible.

2nd conjunct / 1st conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl	1pl
2	1pl/2sg		2sg
3	1pl/3sg	2sg/3sg	

Examples:

(21) ʔarkudˤu ʔana: wa-ʔija:k.
      run.1SG I.   and-you
      'I and you run.'

4.2 Coordination with "or"

4.2.1 SV order

Pattern: Mismatching person is resolved following the hierarchy 1 > 2 > 3. (Number is resolved to plural.)

2nd conjunct / 1st conjunct	1	2	3
1		1pl/??2sg	1pl/??3sg
2	1pl		2pl/??2sg
3	1pl	2pl/2sg	

Examples:

(22) ʔanta ʔaw ʔana: narkudˤu.
You or I run.1PL
'You or I run.'

(23) ʔana: ʔaw ʔanta narkudˤu.
I or you. run.1PL
'I or you run.'